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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14040 071402Z

43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

AID-20 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /152 W
---------- 032926
P R 071235Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6386
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 14040

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SEATO
SUBJ: SEATO: REPORT OF SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON FUTURE
ROLE AND STRUCTURE

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

REF: A. STATE 172356 (NOTAL)
B. BANGKOK 13627 (NOTAL)
C. BANGKOK 13857 (NOTAL)
D. STATE 176194
E. BANGKOK 13508 (NOTAL)

1. AT PWG MEETING SEPTEMBER 6 THAIS WOULD NOT AGREE TO COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT CMPO FILL DEPSECGEN SLOT UPON DEPARTURE OF PRESNET INCUMBENT IN NOVEMBER AND THAT MATTER OF SUBSEQUENT CIVILIAN OR MILITARY OCCUPANCY THIS POSITION BE DECIDED UPON COMPLETION TOUR OF CMPO.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RTG CABINET ON SEPTEBMER 3 DECIDED TO INSIST ON AGREEMENT NOW THAT SEATO NO. 2 SLOT WILL BE FILLED BY MILITARY OFFICER IN FUTURE, AND THAT THAI COUNCIL MEMBER AND DEPUTY FONMIN CHARTCHAI WOULD HOLD OUT FOR THIS AT COUNCIL MEETING IN
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 14040 071402Z

NEW YORK IF NECESSARY. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANT THAT THAI EVIDENTLY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ATTACH TO PRESERVING THIS SHADE OF MILITARY COLORATION FOR SEATO, AND SINCE INCUMBENCY OF DEPUTY SECGEN POSTION APPEARS RELATIVELY MINOR MATTER AFTER THAI CONCESSIONS TO AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND VIEWS (SHARED BY US) ON FUTURE MILITARY PLANNING AND MPO, WE BELIEVE EARLY ACQUIESCENCE IN THAI POSITION ADVISABLE. REFERAL OF THIS ISSUE TO THE NEW YORK MEETING MIGHT PROVIDE OCCASION FOR REOPENING DISCUSSION ON OTHER MATTERS, SUCH AS FUTURE MILITARY PLANNING, PRESENTLY AGREED UPON. FURTHERMORE WE CONSIDER THAT PRESENT CMPO, PHILIPPINE BGEN VENADAS, WOULD MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE AND SURFACE ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS WHEN ACTING AS SECGEN IN AGSENCE OF SECGEN SUNTHORN.

3. BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND REPS HAVE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT THEY WOULD ATTEMPT PERSUADE THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ACQUIESCE ON THAI POSITION BEFORE COUNCIL REPS SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING. UK REP STATE HE COULD SUPPORT THAI POSTION, WHILE PHILIPPINE REP, ALTHOUGH DESIRING THAT ISSUE AWAIT SECGEN'S STAFFING PATTERN PROPOSAL CALLED BY BY DECEMBER, INDICATED THAT THEY WOUL ALSO PROBABLY AGREE TO THAI POSTION IN INTEREST OF SETTLING MATTER.

4. RE PARA 4 REFTEL E, PWG MEMBERS AGREED TO LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY US WHICH SERVES TO GUARANTEE THAT PRESENT INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBERS ON CIVIL SIDE WILL NOT BE REDUCED IN RANK OR BE SUBJECT TO RELEASE PRIOR TO TERMINATION PRESENT TERMS OF APPOINTMENTS. MATTER OF GRADE OF SUCCESSOR OF PRESENT PIO, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER POSITIONS, WILL BE DETERMINED FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING.

5. AS FORECAST REFTEL C, ONLY OTHER CHANGES PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED AT MEETING WERE SEMANTIC IN NATURE NOT AFFECTING SUBSTANCE.
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